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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 25X1A

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 10 May 1948

SUBJECT Political Information: Relationship Between  
LI Tsung-jen and CHIANG Kai-shek

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1. LI Tsung-jen and CHIANG Kai-shek have been on unfriendly terms for a number of years as a result of the following circumstances:

- (a) LI was an excellent administrator who was popular and militarily strong in his native Kwangsi; his army there was considered the best in China. CHIANG became jealous of LI and transferred his troops to fight against the Communists in the front lines where they were decimated. LI's military power was thus destroyed.
- (b) LI was then transferred to Peiping so that he would lose his popular support in Kwangsi. With his troops gone, LI lost all his wealth and was in position to lose all his power as well, since the post in Peiping did not give him command of other troops.
- (c) To recoup his wealth and power, to recruit more troops and pay them, and to finance his campaign, LI took as a concubine a wealthy and powerful widow from Kwangsi who is also politically ambitious for LI and herself. With her money and administrative ability LI is beginning to regain power in Kwangsi. However, he is still considered poor and his military support in Kwangsi, which has been kept secret, is not clearly known.

2. LI is still closely connected with FU Tso-yi and YEN Hsi-shan.

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3. Large contributions to LI's campaign were made by General LI Pin-hsien, governor of Anhwei.

4. In the vice-presidential campaign LI stressed two points:

- (a) He could deliver American aid;
- (b) He would make the vice-presidential post an active one.

Most of LI's press releases were made for American consumption. LI's press officer is an American-educated Chinese who is considered to be very clever.

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